

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,  
SECURITY POLICE ENTRY CONTROL BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2894)  
Off Perimeter Road in SAC Alert Area  
Plattsburgh  
Clinton County  
New York

HAER No. NY-326-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE SECURITY POLICE ENTRY CONTROL BUILDING (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2894)

HAER No. NY-326-A

**Location:** Off Perimeter Road in Strategic Air Command (SAC) Alert Area,  
Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.621140.4947380  
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

**Date of Construction:** 1959

**Architect/Engineer:** Unknown

**Present Owner:** United States Air Force

**Present Use:** Vacant

**Significance:** This 130-square-foot building is an element of the SAC Alert Area, a self contained, high security complex. During the Cold War, Building No. 2894 was the Alert access control facility and was essential to maintaining the complex's overall security. This masonry reinforced gatehouse sheltered security personnel from small-arms fire, while allowing security personnel to closely scrutinize vehicles and personnel entering and exiting the complex.

**Project Information:** Building No. 2894 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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**Summary Description of Security Police Entry Control Building (Plattsburgh Air Force Base Building No. 2894)**

**Layout**

Built in 1959, Building No. 2894, the Security Police Entry Control Building, is a small, one-story, rectangular-in-plan building constructed of reinforced concrete blocks on a concrete foundation. The 130 square foot building has a flat roof with wide overhangs, and is painted beige. The south façade has a metal personnel door; to the right of the door is a small gun port and window with bullet-resistant glass. The east façade has a small window. Directly in front of the window is a fenced, personnel entry gate with a turnstile and two remotely operated vehicle gates topped with barbed wire. The design of the vehicle gates ensures that when the outer gate is open, the inner gate remains closed--both of these gates incorporate positive locking devices. The entire gate area is enclosed with a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. The fencing immediately adjacent to Building No. 2894 still retains warning and procedural signs for the SAC Alert Area.

Within the building, space is provided to accommodate the entry controller, racks for restricted area badges, a radio console and associated lighting, and the gate control panels.

**Alterations/Additions**

Building No. 2894 has had no known major alterations; however, the personnel entry gate area was partially covered with a cross gable roof in 1980.

**Function**

Building No. 2894 was designed and used to restrict ingress and egress from the SAC Alert Area for purposes of national security. As such, during the height of the Cold War, all personnel requesting entrance to the area were first screened at this location in order to maintain the integrity of the base's mission.

**Significance**

On March 21, 1946, SAC was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering atomic weapons. Thus, the newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Accordingly, because SAC was vital to the United States' national security, security police entry control buildings, such as Building No. 2894, were constructed at each SAC facility.

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SECURITY POLICE ENTRY CONTROL BUILDING  
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**Sources**

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United States Air Force

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United States Air Force

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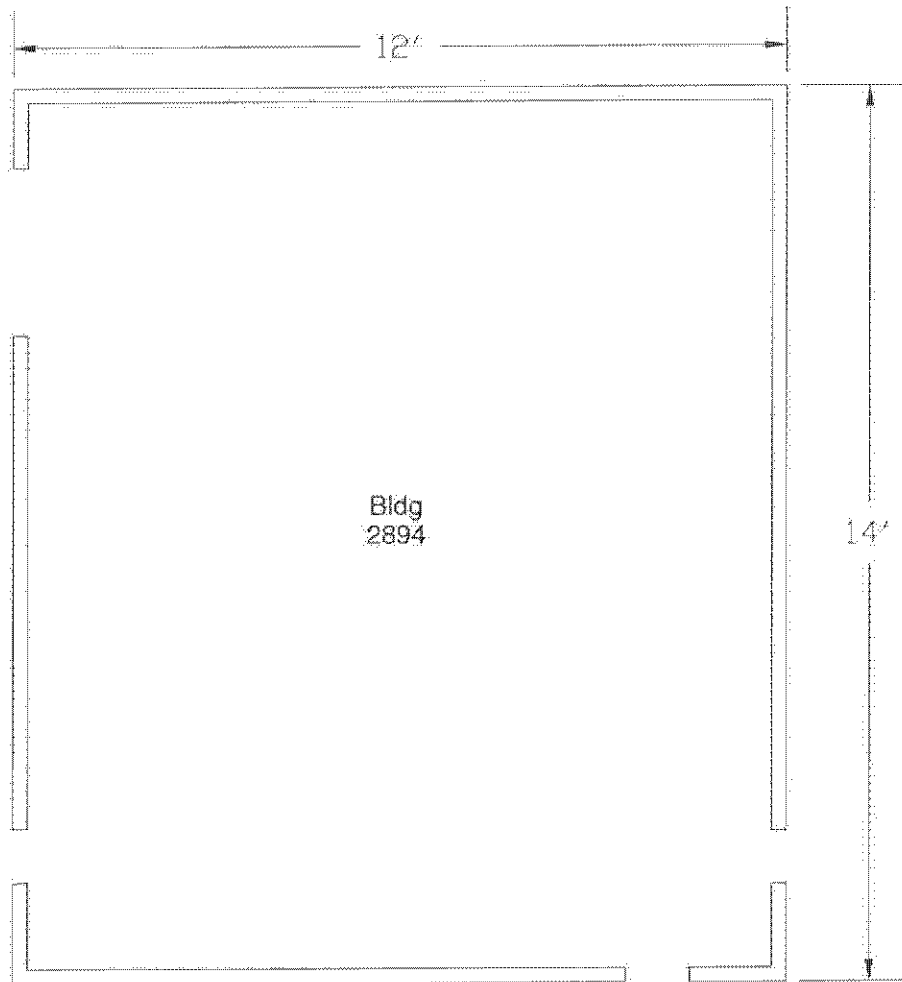
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SECURITY POLICE OPERATIONS BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2894)  
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Location Map for Security Police Entry Control Building, Building No. 2894  
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SECURITY POLICE ENTRY CONTROL BUILDING  
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Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—SECURITY POLICE ENTRY CONTROL BUILDING  
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2894)  
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)  
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